

**The First Church of Christ in Marblehead
Old North Church, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Here is what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome:

**All: “The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”**

One: Spirit of the living God, visit us again this day of Pentecost.

All: come, Holy Spirit, come.

One: On rushing winds that sweep away all barriers,

All: come, Holy Spirit, come.

One: With love that erodes the boundaries between “us” and “them,”

All: come, Holy Spirit, come.

One: To connect us to something larger than ourselves,

All: come, Holy Spirit, come.

* HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

#535

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Don Remick

(from the work of Janey Morley)

Spirit of truth, whom the world can never grasp, touch our hearts with the shock of your coming. Fill us with desire for your disturbing peace.

And fire us with longing to speak your uncontainable word. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We do not stop enough to listen to the still-speaking God. And like the people of Jerusalem long ago, we often misunderstand the Spirit's movement among us. In the fullness of this moment, let us draw near to God and listen. Let us confess together:

One: Spirit of God, you come to us as a powerful wind —

All: but we have shut the door and bolted it, to try to keep you out.

One: You descend on us as tongues of fire —

All: but we run away, afraid of being consumed.

One: You give us gifts beyond our ability —

All: but we squander them, we hide them, we say, "Not today," or "How can one person make a difference?" or "No, Lord, not me."

One: On this day of Pentecost, forgive our feebleness. Break open the doors of resistance. Let the fire of your Spirit dance within each of us.

All: And give us courage and faith to claim your call for our lives.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news! God's Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one.

All: We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up God's Realm on this earth. Thanks be to God!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Spirit One,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen, Amen.**

* HYMN

My Country 'tis of Thee

#531

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

INVITATION

Noah Jackson

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

PROMISE FROM THE CHURCH

Deacon: As a sign of our shared desire to continue to grow as the members of Old North Church in Marblehead, let us join together in proclaiming our vision statement, using the words in the bulletin:

All: Old North Church shall be an inclusive Christian Community called to bring to life God's love and grace by sharing the gospel for this time and place; extending the hospitality Christ showed; embodying God's love and compassion to those in need; and growing together in our understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Moderator: Let us, the members of Old North Church, express our welcome and affirm our ministry together:

All: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We give thanks to God for bringing you to us. We welcome the ways in which you will enrich, change, and challenge this church. We promise you our love, support, and care, come what may.

LISTENING

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 11:24-30

Read by Kathleen Jasaitis

So Moses went and told the people what God had said. He gathered seventy elders and had them surround the Tent. The Lord came down in a cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the Spirit that was in Moses, God bestowed it on the seventy elders whom Moses had gathered there; and as the Spirit came to rest on them, they were seized with prophesying, and did not stop.

Now two other elders, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had stayed behind in the camp. They had been summoned to the tent, but had not gone; yet the Spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp. When a youth came running to tell Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua, ben-Nun, who from youth had been Moses' aide, cried, "Moses, stop them!"

But Moses answered, "Are you jealous for my sake? If only all of God's people were prophets! If only the Lord would bestow the Spirit on them all!" Then Moses returned to the camp with the elders.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-23

Read by Ed Jasaitis

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said,

"Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven.

If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

SERMON

"Too Heavy To Carry Alone" Rev. Lindsay Popperson

A TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Marblehead Forever

From a melody by J.R. Murray, *Songs of Rejoicing*, 1888

Noah Jackson, *piano*

* DOXOLOGY #45

Praise God for love we all may share

Praise God for beauty everywhere.

Praise God for hope of good to be.

Praise God for truth that makes us free. Amen

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

* HYMN

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

#536

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

#401, verse 5

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun. Amen**

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*